Programmes as per the policy announced ;

(e) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has now changed the decision to appoint inter-ministerial committee in this regard ; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a), (d) (e) and (f) No such committee has been appointed by this Ministry for this purpose.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Lorazepam

2486. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Lorazepam is being produced in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge capacities of this drug has been indigenously created;

(c) what are the reasons for allowing the import of this drug and what steps are being taken to save foreign exchange and encourage indigenous production; and

(d) by when Government will recommend for ban on its import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : (a) Production of Lorazepam is not monitored by this Ministry.

(b) To the extent information is available only one Unit is holding licence in the organised sector for manufacture of Lorazepam.

(c) and (d) The import policy of a drug is determined in consideraton of several factors such as demand and availability, technology etc. To encourage indigenous production Lorazepam has been delicensed.

Categorisation of drugs required for National Health Programme

2487. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per policy statement announced in December, 1986 it was clearly spelt out that drugs needed for National Health Programmes would be covered under Category-I of Drugs Prices Control Order;

(b) whether it is a fact that the policy statement had the approval of the cabinet ; and

(c) whether these drugs would be taken back to price controlled category, if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : (a) and (c) All the drugs included in Category-I under DPCO, 1987 are required for the National Health Programme and were included in Schedule I of the DPCO on the basis of recommendation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.